



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, June 2006

Preliminary Endangerment Assessment for the Former Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway Company Wood Street Site

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has approved a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) for the Former Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Company Site (Site), located at the terminus of West Grand Avenue elevated roadway and Wood Street, Oakland, California (See Figure 1, Site Location Map Page 3). Site investigations indicate that Site soils are impacted with arsenic.

A Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) is performed to determine whether current or past operations on the property have resulted in the release or threatened release of hazardous substances that may pose a threat to public health or the environment. DTSC encourages you to review the administrative file for the Site which is available at the information repository listed on page 2. If you have questions about this site, please contact Mr. Edgardo Gillera, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3826 or by e-mail at egillera@dtsc.ca.gov.

This fact sheet will provide you:

- History and Background of the Site
- Findings of Investigation
- PEA Benefit

Site Location

The Site is located directly under the elevated portion of West Grand Avenue and immediately to the west of the Site is the elevated portion of the I-880 freeway and the Union Pacific Railroad Desert Yard. The area around the Site is primarily light industrial and commercial.

History and Background

The Site has been used a railroad right-of-way since 1930. No hazardous substances were handled, stored, treated or disposed of at the Site. BNSF has owned and operated the property as a railroad right-of-way since 1930. Site use prior to 1930 is unknown. Currently, the Site consists of mainly unpaved area intersected by railroad tracks.

Findings of Investigation

Site investigations were conducted in 1994 and 2005. Results from these investigations have indicated the soils throughout the Site have been impacted by arsenic at levels above regulatory screening criteria and regional background levels.



A PEA was conducted in 2005. The PEA concluded that although arsenic levels above regulatory screening criteria and regional background levels remain on the property, the Site does not pose a significant threat or an immediate potential hazard to public health or the environment because exposure to site soils would require Site redevelopment. Redevelopment in the area would be highly unlikely given the recent completion of the Cypress Freeway Realignment Project throughout the immediate Site vicinity.

Due to the absence of any public and/or private use of the groundwater in the vicinity of the Site and the inaccessibility of the Site to the public, a No Further Action recommendation is given. A deed restriction will be initiated to restrict future use of the property.

PEA Benefit

Completion of the PEA aids in the transfer of the property from BNSF to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Transfer of the property enables Caltrans to maintain ownership of parcels associated with the reconstruction of the Cypress Freeway.

Information Repositories

DTSC encourages you to review the PEA other site-related documents, available at the information repository listed below:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
File Room
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
Please Call (510) 540-3800 for an appointment.

For More Information

For more information about the Site, the PEA process and related documents please contact:

Edgardo Gillera
DTSC Project Manager
(510) 540-3826
Email egillera@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding the public participation process please contact:

Richard Perry
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(510) 540-3910
rperry@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions please contact:

Angela Blanchette
DTSC Public Information Officer
(510) 540-3732
ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378). Please ask to be connected to Richard Perry in the DTSC Berkeley office at (510) 540-3910.

ANNUNCIO

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Especialista en Participación Pública de el Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

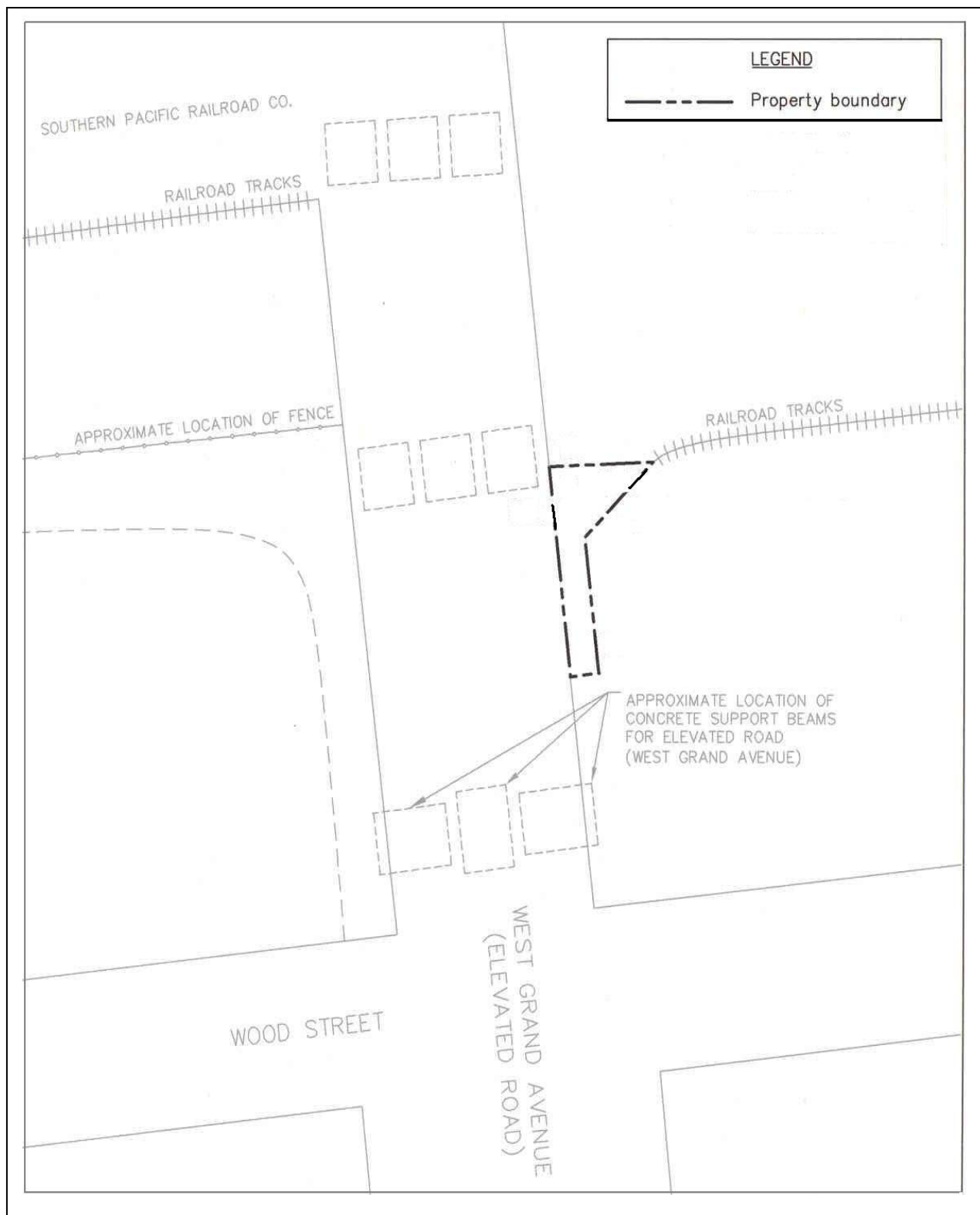


Figure1. Site Location Map